

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 25959 170917Z

13

ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SIL-01 EUR-12 /025 W

----- 040221

R 170852Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3456

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 25959

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJ: FIVE LABOR LEADERS TO RUSSIA

SUMMARY: IN A PRESS INTERVIEW, POSSIBLY TIMED TO HASTEN RTG APPROVAL, AN EXECUTIVE OF THE THAI LABOR COUNCIL (TLC) ANNOUNCED THE GROUP HAD SELECTED FIVE LABOR LEADERS FOR A STUDY TOUR OF RUSSIA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MARCH 1976, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND INVITED FIVE THAI LABOR LEADERS TO VISIT INDUSTRIAL AREAS IN THE SOVIET UNION. AT THE SAME TIME TWO ADDITIONAL LABOR LEADERS WERE INVITED TO ATTEND MAY DAY FESTIVITIES IN MOSCOW. THE MAY DAY INVITATION RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE ACRIMONY WHEN SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE WERE UNABLE TO COMPLETE NORMALLY ROUTINE SECURITY CHECKS IN TIME FOR THE TRIP. LABOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE ALSO ACCUSED OF CONDONING THE DELAY. WHEN TLC PRESIDENT PHAISAN THAWATCHAINAN CALLED THE SOVIET EMBASSY TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE SECOND INVITATION, SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS CLAIMED TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT.

2. ONCE THE INITIAL CONTROVERSY DIED DOWN, THE SOVIETS RENEWED THEIR INVITATION TO FIVE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. THE TLC AND SOME OF THE INVITEES INDICATED DISPLEASURE WITH THIS APPROACH, WHICH THEY CONSIDERED INCONSISTENT WITH A DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. THE TLC POSTPONED ACCEPTING THE INVITATION AND REQUESTED THE RIGHT

TO SELECT THE GRANTEES. COMMENT: SOME OF THE UNION PEOPLE INVITED WERE OF THE OPINION THEY WOULD BE LESS VULNERABLE TO ATTACK IF THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 25959 170917Z

NAMES WERE PROPOSED BY THEIR COLLEAGUES RATHER THAN THE SOVIET EMBASS

Y.

3. THE SOVIET EMBASSY ACCEDED TO THE TLC REQUEST AND FIVE MEN HAVE BEEN SLECTED TO DEPART ON SEPTEMBER 22 FOR A THREE-WEEK VISIT. THE LIST INCLUDES THE TWO MEN WHO HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE MAY DAY CELEBRATION AND ONE OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD INDICATED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE TOO HAD BEEN INVITED EARLIER, GIVING THE IMPRESSION THE SOVIETS HAVE, IN THE THAI WAY, SUCCEEDED IN NAMING THE GRANTEES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MORE CONSERVATIVE FACTIONS OF THE TLC, THE INDIVIDUALS SELECTED REPRESENT THE ATTITUDES OF THE MAJORITY OF TLC LEADERS AND HAVE NOT INDICATED ANY PREFERENCE FOR THE SOVIET SYSTEM. IT IS HOPED THE HANDLING OF THE SOVIET INVITATION HAS NOT ESTABLISHED A PRECEDENT THAT MIGHT PRESENT AN OBSTACLE TO USG EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAMS.
BURKE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO25959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760352-0563
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760951/aaaabrba.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION LAB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIVE LABOR LEADERS TO RUSSIA SUMMARY: IN A PRESS INTERVIEW, POSSIBLY TIMED TO HASTEN RTG APPROVAL, AN EXECUTIVE OF THE THAI LABOR COUNCIL (
TAGS: ELAB, TH, UR, TLC, THAI LABOR COUNCIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006